

Ang Lee Quotes

*Thinking, Movie, Actors, People, Character, Years, Film, Trying, Writing, Book,
Views, Needs, Giving, Two, World, Kids, Chance, Chinese, Art, Steps*

We need storytelling. Otherwise life just goes on and on, like the number Pi.

~Ang Lee

I see a movie as a way of learning about the world, about myself, and learning about my relationship with people and art.

~Ang Lee

I think the American West really attracts me because it's romantic. The desert, the empty space, the drama.

~Ang Lee

My hometown was one of the major U.S. Air Force bases.

~Ang Lee

I think people are universal.

~Ang Lee

Every movie I make. That's my hideout, the place I don't quite understand, but feel most at home.

~Ang Lee

Sometimes, you have to get angry to get things done.

~Ang Lee

I think great romance needs great obstacles and textures.

~Ang Lee

When there is a strong woman character in a story - that always grabs me

~Ang Lee

Fighting for identity is something that is very much in my life.

~Ang Lee

Making movies is a way of understanding myself and the world.

~Ang Lee

I feel like all of my characters now take this congested situation, they clash, and from there you purge yourself.

~Ang Lee

I did a women's movie, and I'm not a woman. I did a gay movie, and I'm not gay. I learned as I went along.

~Ang Lee

There's a level of sophistication of filmmaking that's mind-boggling. Anything you need for your movie, there's an establishment that can make it happen really fast.

~Ang Lee

I'm not a master of films. I'm rather a slave.

~Ang Lee

These days I'm mostly familiar with two parts of L.A.: one is movie culture, and the other is Asian culture. The Westside is work, and the Eastside is Chinese - which means my friends.

~Ang Lee

I'm a drifter and an outsider. There's not one single environment I can totally belong to.

~Ang Lee

Americans are hidden dragons to me.

~Ang Lee

I think a lot of people do big movies not because they are talented artists but because they can function in the circumstances.

~Ang Lee

So many times you see beautiful lovemaking scenes with a lot of exposure or an awkward lovemaking scene, but I think it's very rare that you see it private.

~Ang Lee

Sexuality is a big issue, but there are others - how much you commit to a relationship, to social obligation, to honesty and being honest with yourself.

~Ang Lee

When I started out, nobody gave me scripts, so I had to write...

~Ang Lee

I wanted to shoot straight, mainstream, somehow off-beat. Not only realistic West, which is quite unfamiliar to the world's population - even to a lot of Americans.

~Ang Lee

At times I can't help going for visual comfort. Sometimes a picture fills up your head, and you try to move the actors around to make that visual statement.

~Ang Lee

Meanwhile, the Ice Storm was still in development, And that was something I really wanted to do, and frankly I don't think I was ready to do a big production like this.

~Ang Lee

To me, Ennis stands for the conservative side of America. He's the biggest homophobe in the whole movie - culturally and psychologically - but by the time he admits his feelings, it's too late.

~Ang Lee

On a Chinese film you just give orders, no one questions you. Here,

you have to convince people, you have to tell them why you want to do it a certain way, and they argue with you. Democracy.

~Ang Lee

As artists, we like night more than day sometimes.

~Ang Lee

So I'm a one movie at a time person, I don't develop. Normally we do a movie then one thing leads to another. If something pops up that catches my attention, then I'll decide.

~Ang Lee

Now I'm kind of established as a director, I much prefer directing to writing.

~Ang Lee

I look at American movies, the big muscles, and try to apply that to Chinese film-making.

~Ang Lee

I don't have incredible knowledge about films or of filmmaking history; I'm not that kind of person.

~Ang Lee

The most mysterious feminine factor, the existence that we men, we don't know. It's woman. It's feminine. That's what the sword is about. That's the symbolic meaning of the sword.

~Ang Lee

When I have a full schedule like that, I don't see myself sitting there for a couple of months, doing the research, going through a painful process, it's just not my thing anymore.

~Ang Lee

I have two sons in America, and all they care about in Chinese culture is Jackie Chan and Jet Li.

~Ang Lee

Sensitivity and money are like parallel lines. They don't meet.

~Ang Lee

When I see something I like, that's all that counts. What they use, how they get there, I never bother them.

~Ang Lee

Many times when you make a movie, it feels like your biggest mistake. But even if a film isn't a hit, you shouldn't view it as a mistake.

~Ang Lee

Thinking back to those earlier days, I felt I was weak when I wasn't making movies, and then when I was, I thought I was weak as a family member.

~Ang Lee

For a filmmaker, it's a rare chance to do a personal film on a big canvas.

~Ang Lee

When you talk about God, the first thing that comes along is not love, it's fear. You have to fear, and be in awe. You have to be scared. Any religion, it's like first thing.

~Ang Lee

It's not a pleasure torturing actors, although some of them enjoy it.

~Ang Lee

My mother loves me and everything goes well. I have no conflict with her, so that's not dramatic.

~Ang Lee

The L.A. weather is a lot like Taiwan's, where you don't observe four seasons, so the years can pass and you don't feel a thing.

~Ang Lee

You can get rich or famous by doing the same thing.

~Ang Lee

When something possesses me, I go ahead and do it.

~Ang Lee

The way I go about a lovemaking scene is that we will talk about it during the rehearsing time.

~Ang Lee

Usually with this genre the first thing that happens is a good fight sequence to show that you're in good hands. So we broke that rule. I think a lot of that comes from the western audience.

~Ang Lee

3D is quite a lot more advanced in animated movies; for live-action movies we're just taking baby steps, we're just in the beginning.

~Ang Lee

After making several tragic movies in a row, I was looking to do a comedy, and one without cynicism.

~Ang Lee

If the movie is quiet I generally feel the audience is busy. That's when they're working.

~Ang Lee

I think doing period piece is easier, because after a certain distance,

everybody is equal, I think. The relative contemporary is harder. I think that's the way it is.

~Ang Lee

Directing, I get all kinds of inspiration. It's working with people. It's a lot more fun.

~Ang Lee

Beautifully-acted and precisely observed, ILO ILO is an amazing debut, full of heart and intelligence.

~Ang Lee

In Taiwan, I'd be like Michael Jordan walking down the street.

~Ang Lee

I find it hard to deliver straightforward things.

~Ang Lee

With 3D you're right there immersed in the world.

~Ang Lee

I like to think I'm un-categorisable.

~Ang Lee

There's only one movie in my career I've had regrets with cutting it shorter, and I think some scenes maybe I shouldn't have cut.

~Ang Lee

I don't care about writing really.

~Ang Lee

Everyone in the gay community doesn't think alike.

~Ang Lee

I'm aware of what's missing from my life.

~Ang Lee

Emotions serve characters' purposes. That is their motivation.

~Ang Lee

I grew up pretty peacefully, in that Eastern way. You easily solve problems, believe in harmony. Reduce conflicts, take orders until one day you give orders.

~Ang Lee

The fear factor actually brings the genuineness.

~Ang Lee

The woman's perspective is like the dark side of the moon: it always exists, but it is never exposed, at least not in my culture.

~Ang Lee

My cultural roots are something illusive.

~Ang Lee

No matter how widely spread out the films are, how different, you still are you.

~Ang Lee

I think that at heart I am an old-fashioned Chinese, really I am.

~Ang Lee

Every movie is unknown.

~Ang Lee

I'm a big boy now, and I have to deliver.

~Ang Lee

I think a movie is a media that is evoking feelings.

~Ang Lee

A movie is really provocation. It's not a message, it's not a statement.

~Ang Lee

If you try to act, you're going to look like you're acting. So don't act.

~Ang Lee

It's just what I am. When I am in the zone making one movie, I just didn't want to read anything else or do anything else, so I don't really develop projects.

~Ang Lee

I'm just a pretty regular dad.

~Ang Lee

Economically, it's more expensive to make movies. I hope digital movies change that.

~Ang Lee

My first instinct was to cast as close to the short story as possible, but then I realized that I needed actors who could go for it and that they had to function well as a couple in a love story.

~Ang Lee

I grew up pretty much prevented from knowing anything from Communist China except that they were the bad guys that stole our country.

~Ang Lee

Kids don't even read comic books anymore. They've got more important things to do - like video games.

~Ang Lee

I feel that everyone has a Hulk inside, and each of our Hulks is both scary and, potentially, pleasurable. That's the scariest thing about them.

~Ang Lee

What is really a stretch to me is to make quick decisions.

~Ang Lee

I don't like to deal with studios. I don't like to have conversations with executives. I pitch to the studio, then never talk to them until the test screening.

~Ang Lee

I don't think the Hulk is a superhero. He's the first Marvel character who is a tragic monster. Really an anti-hero.

~Ang Lee

I have a lot of repression. So repression is what I make movies about.

~Ang Lee

My father was the center of the family, and everyone tried to please him.

~Ang Lee

Making a martial arts film in English to me is the same as John Wayne speaking Chinese in a western.

~Ang Lee

I'm not a romantic. In life I didn't have much experience with romance.

~Ang Lee

In the past I've made movies that were pretty universally liked. You can't really hate them. You can discard them, but you can't really hate them.

~Ang Lee

I just did a dramatic love story. Whether it's a cultural phenomenon is not for me to say.

~Ang Lee

I like to do drama, something about life that could be disappointing.

~Ang Lee

In my culture, there's a tradition that when you're in an overwhelming situation and you don't know what to do, you put yourself in a woman's shoes.

~Ang Lee

I had to find my way of translating the excitement you get when you're reading comic books to the big screen.

~Ang Lee

I guess in Hollywood you chart your life by Oscars. You say to each other, "Remember when that movie won that year? It was 2006. Remember that?"

~Ang Lee

You become the movie you are making.

~Ang Lee

I think each movie-making process is a very exhausting and satisfying and fulfilling experience for me.

~Ang Lee

If there's something that can be formulated, regulated, give you security, then nobody would lose money. Every movie would be successful. And that's certainly not the case.

~Ang Lee

American films are less American every day, because you have to please a world audience. There's less authenticity, so it's more accessible.

~Ang Lee

I like to go back to Chinese film-making from time to time. I don't think I can make Chinese films back to back; it's such a big effort. I'd have to take a very long break.

~Ang Lee

If it was a choice between making movies and doing nothing, he'd probably still wish me to make movies, So he made me keep going.

~Ang Lee

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